National scheme for the welfare of orphans

2012. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any national scheme for the welfare of orphans in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of those schemes;

(c) whether the schemes have already been implemented or steps taken by the State Governments need review to provide more benefit to the orphans; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Scheme for the Welfare of Children in Need of Care and Protection is in operation since 1974-75 as a Centrally sponsored Scheme. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided for care, protection, education and training of children in Children's Homes run by Voluntary Organisations. Since 1979-80, 90 per cent of the expenditure is shared equally by the Central and State Governments. The Voluntary Organisations bear the remaining 10 per cent expenditure. In case of organisations working in Tribal areas, the Government bears 95 per cent of the costs.

(c) and (d) The Scheme for the Welfare of Children in Need of Care and Protection is being implemented since 1974-75 by all States and Union Territory Administrations. Approximately, 46,000 children have been covered through 900 institutions.

Schemes for the welfare of Railway workers

2013. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any scheme for the welfare of the Railway workers;

(b) if so, what are the details of those schemes;

(c) the steps taken to regularise the services of the workers engaged in different zones on temporary basis for more than five years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A number of schemes for the welfare of the Railway servants are already in operation. These mainly include Medicare, Subsidised housing, Educational facilities (including subsidised hostel facility) Educational Assistance, Holiday Homes, Convalescent Homes, Canteens, Cooperative Societies and Handicraft Centres, Promotion of Sports & Scouts activities etc.

(c) and (d) Presumably this refers to casual labour. For the past two decades virtually all Group 'D' vacancies, barring some exceptions are being filled by screening and absorption of casual labour and substitutes. In this manner, tens of thousands of casual labour have been absorbed in regular service in Railways over the past many years. Further about 50,000 posts were sanctioned during the last two years for effecting decasualisation.

Absorption of casual labour in regular employment is, however, subject to factors like availability of vacancies, eligibility and suitability of individual casual labourers for regular employment.